



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DEFENSE PROGRAM AIDS IN WAR ON WATER POLLUTION

The national defense program is helping conservationists to safeguard fish from water pollution, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Help for fish threatened by pollution will come from two quarters, the Service reported today to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The first is through cooperation by the War Department, the Office of Production Management, and the fishery biologists of the Service in controlling sewage from cantonment areas and industrial wastes released in waters by ordinance plants and newly built privately owned factories with defense contracts. A constant watch is kept by Albert M. Day, Fish and Wildlife Service official designated as liaison officer on national defense activities affecting wildlife.

Scientists headed by Dr. M. M. Ellis, water pollution authority who maintains laboratory headquarters at the University of Missouri, check threatened areas surrounding campsites and new factories and recommend control measures.

"Excellent cooperation on the part of national defense agencies helps to solve such problems in a manner satisfactory to the requirements of the Army without excessive harm to fish life," Mr. Day commented.

The second source of help is the establishment of two fishery laboratories for research on the effects of various types of pollution on fish, under controlled conditions.

Made possible by an appropriation of \$35,000 by Congress, the studies at these laboratories are planned to obtain data showing which of the various waste products are really harmful, and what quantities can be tolerated by fish.

For these purposes, a fishery laboratory for warm-water species is being made available in the South, and another in the West has been designated for studies on trout.